UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/413
19 May 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 19 MAY 1998 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 1 December 1997 and 2 May 1998, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Iranian violations of the ceasefire resolution and the 1991 Tehran agreement between 1 December 1997 and 2 May 1998

1. 1 December 1997

The Iranian side seized two boats: Al-Mahrusi, 5303, Basra and Al-Rusiyan, 60, Basra. On 10 February 1998, both boats and their crews returned, having been searched by the Iranian authorities.

2. 19 February 1998

At 2300 hours, unknown persons opened small-arms fire on Al-Imam guard post at coordinates 432638 in the Naft Khaneh area.

3. 20 February 1998

Engineering work was observed being carried out in order to raise submerged boats from the Shatt al-Arab in the Khorramshahr region at coordinates 236718, in an area extending as far as the island of Umm al-Rassas at coordinates 285680 and opposite the Shahidiyah region at coordinates 303618 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). This work was carried out at each location by a group of civilians estimated to number between 5 and 10, using a pontoon bearing one hoist.

4. 21 February 1998

At 1600 hours, the Iranian side burned the reeds on the Iranian shore of the Shatt al-Arab in the region opposite the border patrol post at coordinates 485342.

5. 21 February 1998

The Iranian inspection point in the Shatt al-Arab at coordinates 7112 prevented sea-going commercial ships from entering or leaving Iraqi national ports. The Iranian customs post permitted two commercial ships to enter the Shatt al-Arab from the open sea.

6. 24 February 1998

At 0430 hours, a group estimated to number 50 from the Iranian side abducted Captain Mahmud Aly Dawwad and three ranks: Warrant Officer Ja'ul Razij Maktuf; Soldier, First Class, Halim Azir and Soldier, First Class, Ibrahim Farhan, all of whom were unarmed, in the Zayd post area at coordinates 907019. This was in "retaliation" for the capture of three Iranians from the same guard post by Mojahedin-e Khalq. The Iranians said that they would return the officer and men once those three captured Iranians were returned. At 0100 hours on the same day, this exchange was effected with the Iranian side in the Shalamjah region.

7. 27 February 1998

At 1100 hours, the Iranian side raised and towed away a submerged pontoon in the Shatt al-Arab near the Unbubi bridge at coordinates 668153 (1:100,000 map of Al-Bakr).

8. 3 March 1998

At 1700 hours, a group of Iranian civilians estimated to number 30 was observed gathering on the Iranian shore of the Shatt al-Arab in the Abadan region at coordinates 380590 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). They advanced from the Iranian interior, and some of them trained binoculars on the Iraqi shore. At 1740 hours, the group left the area in the direction of the port of Abadan. At 1800 hours on the same day, the same group was observed in the region opposite Sayhan at coordinates 315575 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). While it was there, the Iranian side patrolled the river using a wooden launch and a white fibreglass boat with a 200 hp engine. At 1830 hours, the aforementioned group left the area in the direction of the Iranian interior.

9. 14 March 1998

At 1500 hours, the Iranian side erected a 6 metre high steel observation post opposite Faw at coordinates 364219 (1:100,000 map of Faw).

10. 15 March 1998

At 1100 hours, the Iranian side undertook fortification works at an observation post on the Iranian shore of the Shatt al-Arab at coordinates 690145 (1:100,000 map of Mina al-Bakr). Four small slit trenches were dug in an earth embankment behind the observation post.

11. 20 March 1998

At 0800 hours, an engineering unit comprising five civilians with two cranes raised a submerged pontoon in the Shatt al-Arab at coordinates 270699 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

12. 20 April 1998

At 2020, 2300 and 2315 hours, the Iranian side launched three heat flares inside Iranian territory in front of the region of Sayhan at coordinates 315580 (1:100.000 map of Saybah). The purpose was to illuminate the area in order to prevent any infiltration of or passage through it.

13. 30 April 1998

At 0930 hours, a khaki-coloured fibreglass Iranian patrol boat with two Yamaha motors left Khorramshahr at coordinates 250712 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) for the open sea. There were three civilians on board. At 2300 hours on 2 May 1998, the boat returned to the waters of Khorramshahr.

14. 30 April 1998

At 1400 hours, a white fibreglass Iranian patrol boat carrying five military personnel detained a fibreglass Iraqi fishing boat in the Shatt al-Arab at coordinates 624160 (1:100,000 map of Mina al-Bakr) inside its territorial waters in the Faw region. The following fishermen were on the Iraqi boat: Hashim Ghadban 'Ashur, 'Ali Dinar 'Abdul Hafez, 'Abdul 'Aziz Hafez' Abdul Rada and Luftah 'Abbas 'Abdullah. At 1200 hours on 7 May 1998, the men and their boat were released.

15. 1 May 1998

At 0800 hours, the Iranian side erected two steel towers at Salam at coordinates 0364 in front of the Tu'an guard post and at coordinates 0765 to the right of the Tu'an guard post. The two towers are over five to six metres high and are manned by Iranian personnel.

16. 1 May 1998

At 1100 hours, the Iranian side erected two further steel towers at Salam at coordinates 1678 and 1170 in front of the Duraji guard post. The towers are over 10 metres high and are manned by Iranian personnel.

17. 2 May 1998

At 0600, a black Iranian fishing boat carrying three armed military personnel detained a small Iraqi fishing boat in the Shatt al-Arab at coordinates 430516 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) inside its territorial waters. The fishermen on board the Iraqi boat were Fawzi Yas Khadir Morad and 'Ali Mansur Khadir Morad. At 1200 hours on 7 May 1998, both men were released with their boat.